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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 14 ANKARA 000592

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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SUBJECT: TURKEY: FIFTH ANNUAL TIP REPORT: PROSECUTION

REF: SECSTATE 273089

1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

2. (U) Post's responses are keyed to questions in Reftel A.  
This is part 2 of 4 (septel).

#### Investigation and Prosecution of Traffickers

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A. (U) Chapter 1, Article 80 of the Turkish Penal Code, as amended by Parliament on September 26, 2004, and signed into law on October 11, 2004, specifically defines human trafficking and prescribes penalties for traffickers and their accomplices. Penalties range from eight to twelve years of imprisonment (up from five to ten years in earlier versions of the law) and, at judicial discretion, an additional penalty of up to ten thousand days. Trafficking crimes can also be (and have also been) prosecuted under statutes of the Law on Combating Benefit-Oriented Criminal Organizations, Turkish Citizenship Law, Labor Law, Law on Working Permits for Foreigners, and the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering.

Chapter 1, Article 80: Human Trafficking (as amended September 26, 2004):

(1) A person who procures or kidnaps persons or who takes or transports persons from one place to another or who harbours persons with a view to force them to work or to provide a service or to subject them to slavery or similar practices or to donate their organs by exerting threats, pressure, force or violence, by abusing his authority, by deceit or by obtaining their consent through taking advantage of the opportunities they have to control them or of their helplessness shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years and to an judicial fine up to ten thousand days.

(2) In the event of actions which are undertaken for the purposes referred to in the first paragraph and which constitute an offence, the consent of the injured party shall be deemed void.

(3) Where juveniles under eighteen years of age are procured, kidnapped, taken or transported from one place to another or harbored for the purposes referred to in the first paragraph, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to the penalties referred to in the first paragraph, notwithstanding that none of the acts instrumental to the offence has been resorted to.

(4) Security measures shall be taken for legal entities on account of the above-mentioned crimes.

On April 1, 2005, Article 80 replaces the following anti-trafficking statutes in effect since August 3, 2002:

Turkish Penal Code Article 201(b):

(1) Those who provide, kidnap, take or transfer from one place to another and house other individuals with the intention of making them work or serve by force, subject them to slavery or similar treatment, threaten, pressure, use force or coercion to persuade them to give up their bodily organs, use undue influence, secure their consent by deception or by using the desperation of such individuals shall be sentenced to five to ten years of heavy imprisonment and a heavy fine of not less than one billion liras.

(2) If the actions that constitute a crime attempted with the intentions laid out in the first paragraph exist, the victim is assumed not to have given his/her consent.

(3) If the children below the age of eighteen are provided, kidnapped, taken or transferred from one place to another or housed with the intentions specified in paragraph one, even when no intermediary actions relation to the crime are committed, the penalties foreseen in paragraph one shall

still be applied to the perpetrator.

(4) If the crimes listed in the paragraphs above are committed in an organized manner, the penalties foreseen for the perpetrators shall be doubled."

**B.** (U) The revised Penal Code provides penalties for traffickers of eight to twelve years of imprisonment and, at judicial discretion, an additional ten thousand days imprisonment. The penalties apply to both traffickers of people for sexual exploitation and traffickers of people for labor exploitation.

**C.** (U) Chapter 1, Section 6 of the revised Penal Code provides varying degrees of penalties for sexual assault, rape, and sexual abuse of adults and minors, as noted below. Penalties may range from two years to life imprisonment, depending upon the circumstances. The new Code excludes several controversial articles from the previous law. For example, under the 2004 revisions, rape is considered a crime against the individual, rather than a crime against society. Under the previous Code rapists could escape punishment by marrying their victims, and punishments for rape varied depending on the marital status of the victim and whether the victim was a virgin.

#### Section 6: Offences against Sexual Integrity

##### Article 102: Sexual Assault

(1) The perpetrator who violates the physical integrity of another person by means of sexual conduct shall be imprisoned for a term of two to seven years upon the complaint of the victim.

(2) Where the act is committed by means of inserting an organ or a similar object to the body, the perpetrator shall be imprisoned for a term of seven to twelve years. If the act is committed against the spouse, legal investigation and prosecution shall be initiated if the victim lodges a complaint.

(3) If the offence is committed,  
a) Against a person who is physically or mentally incapable of defending him/herself,  
b) By breaching of duties and/or abusing the functions pertaining to the official status,  
c) Against a person of first, second, or third degree blood relation or a relative by marriage,  
d) By using weapons and with the cooperation of more than one people,

penalties imposed in accordance with articles above shall be increased by half.

(4) In case an extra power and violence further than necessary to suppress resistance is exerted on the victim during the commitment of the offence the perpetrator shall as well be punished for deliberate wounding.

(5) In case the offence results with the distortion of the physical or mental health of the victim, the perpetrator shall be imprisoned for a term of not less than ten years.

(6) If as a result of the crime the victim enters in to a vegetative state or dies the sentence will be strict life time imprisonment.

##### Article 103: Sexual abuse of children

(1) the perpetrator of child abuse shall be imprisoned for a term of three to eight years. Sexual abuse means:

a) any act of a sexual nature against a minor who has not completed fifteen years of age or though completed fifteen years who lack the competence to perceive the legal meaning and consequences of such acts.

b) sexual acts against other minors depending on use of force, threat, deception or any by any other reason affecting the will of the child,

(2) Where the sexual assault occurs as a a result of insertion of an organ or a similar object into the body, a penalty of imprisonment from eight to fifteen years shall be imposed.

(3) Where the sexual assault is committed by the ascendant, second or third degree blood relative, step father, the person who has adopted the person concerned, guardian, tutor, teacher, caretaker, other persons in charge of providing health services or who bear the obligation for protection or supervision, or through abuse of the service relation, the penalty to be imposed in accordance with the above paragraphs shall be increased by half.

(4) Where the sexual assault is committed against the minors indicated in para 1 (a) as a result of force or threat, the penalty to be imposed in accordance with the above paragraphs shall be increased by half.

(5) Where the force and compulsion used with the aim of sexual assault lead to aggravated consequences of the offence of deliberate wounding, provisions of the offence of deliberate wounding shall apply additionally.

(6) In case the offence results with the distortion of the physical or mental health of the victim, the perpetrator shall be imprisoned to strict life imprisonment.

(7) Where the offence leads the victim to enter a vegetative state or die, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to strict life imprisonment.

1D. (U) According to figures provided by the MOJ's Judicial Records Statistics Bureau, Turkey's Heavy Penal Courts opened cases against 140 suspected human traffickers in the first three terms of 2004 (statistics for the October-December term were not yet available). During this period, courts reached verdicts on twenty-eight cases, sentencing seven suspects to imprisonment and fines and acquitting forty-six defendants. The remaining cases are ongoing. The GOT also reported that two Romanian traffickers were imprisoned for their parts in the cross-border trafficking scheme (para N, this section).

- On February 11, 2004, a criminal court in Yalova, Turkey, convicted four of five defendants. The convictions carried fifty-month sentences and fines of 1,325,000,000 Turkish Lira.

- On May 12, 2004, a criminal court in Fethiye, Turkey, convicted three defendants. The convictions carried fifty-eight month sentences and fines of 972,221,000 Turkish Lira.

1E. (SBU) Foreign victims trafficked to Turkey are typically recruited by small networks of operators who rely on referrals and recruitment from friends and family members in the source country. Groups may be as small as four or five people. Trafficking networks operating as tourist agencies or firms in source countries bring women to Turkey with official work permits. Most reports indicate that profits are channeled into expanding the networks' capacity and affluence, by adding computers, automobiles, and amenities for traffickers. Networks tend to deposit proceeds in source country bank accounts through Turkish banking system transfers. In the highly publicized Anca case (para N, this section), a follow-up police investigation using evidence confiscated in a raid in Istanbul led to arrests of the trafficking network's financial managers in Romania.

Jandarma and other officials at the MOI repeatedly insist trafficking in humans, arms, and narcotics is closely connected.

1F. (U) Official sources tell us Turkey actively investigates cases of trafficking using special investigation techniques, including undercover operations, electronic surveillance, and mitigated punishment in TIP cases. Victims resident at the Istanbul shelter have also utilized the GOT's humanitarian visa program to lead police to traffickers. In December 2004, Turkey revised its Code on Criminal Procedures to codify TIP-specific surveillance, undercover operations, and mitigated punishment for suspects in trafficking crimes. The new code now regulates rules on how to conduct criminal procedures in TIP investigations as well as the rights, powers, and obligations of individuals involved in the process.

From the Revised Code on Criminal Procedure:

Detection, monitoring and recording of communication  
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Article 135.

(1) If during a crime investigation, there is strong suspicion that a crime has been committed and there are no other means of collecting evidence, with the decision of the judge or where a delay is detrimental with the decision of the public prosecutor, the communications of the suspect or the accused may be detected, monitored or recorded by means of telecommunications. In such case, the public prosecutor shall immediately submit his decision to the judge for approval and the judge shall decide on this matter within twenty-four hours, at the latest. Upon expiry of this period or if the judge denies approval, such measure shall be lifted by the public prosecutor immediately.

(2) The suspect's communication with persons who are entitled to refrain from acting as a witness shall not be recorded. If such a situation is understood after the recording, the recorded material shall be destroyed immediately.

(3) In the decision to be taken in accordance with paragraph one, the type of the crime attributed, the identity of the person for whom such a measure is to be implemented, the type of communication means, telephone number or the code that allows for the detection of the communication line, the type of measure, its scope and duration shall be stated. Such a measure can be ruled for three months, at the most; however this period can be extended once.

(4) In order to apprehend the suspect or the accused, the place of the mobile phone used by the suspect or the accused can be detected by a judge's decision and where a delay may be detrimental by the public prosecutor's decision. In the decision taken for this purpose, the number of the mobile phone and the duration of the detection process shall be indicated. Detention can be performed for a period of three months, at the most; however this period can be extended once.

(5) The decision taken and the actions taken according to the provisions of this article shall be kept confidential during the period in which such measure is implemented.

(6) The provisions of this article shall only apply in the case of the below listed offences:

a) In the Turkish Penal Code;

(1) Migrants smuggling and trafficking in human beings (Articles 79, 80),

(7) Apart from the principles and procedures laid down in this Article, no one can monitor or record the communication of another person through telecommunications.

#### Monitoring with technical devices

#### Article 140.

(1) If there is strong suspicion that the below listed crimes have been committed and there are no other means of collecting evidence, the activities and the workplace of the suspect or the accused may be monitored in public places, or it may be subject to audio-visual recording by means of technical devices:

a) In the Turkish Penal Code;

(1) Migrants smuggling and trafficking in human beings (Articles 79, 80),

(2) A decision for monitoring by means of technical devices may be taken by the judge or where a delay is detrimental by the public prosecutor. The decisions taken by the public prosecutor shall be submitted to the judge for approval within twenty-four hours.

(3) A decision for monitoring by means of technical devices can be taken for a maximum of four weeks; however this period can be extended for once.

(4) The evidence obtained cannot be used for purposes unrelated to the investigation or the prosecution of the crime in question; if in terms of prosecution it is no longer needed, then such evidence shall immediately be destroyed under the supervision of the public prosecutor.

(5) The provisions of this article cannot be implemented in the dwelling of the person.

#### Mediation

#### Article 253

(1) In cases where statute permits the procedure of mediation, and in accordance with the case investigated, the public prosecutor shall summon the offender according to the procedures provided for in this Code and shall ask him whether he accepts responsibility with regard to the offence concerned.

(2) If the offender confesses to the offence and agrees to pay for all or most of the material and non-material damage caused by his offence and act or to compensate/make good the damage, the victim of the offence or his lawyer or legal representative, if any, shall be notified of the fact.

(3) If the victim of the offence states that he will accept a friendly settlement of his own free will if reparation is made for all or most of the damage caused, the investigation shall be discontinued.

(4) If the offender and the victim cannot agree upon a lawyer, the public prosecutor may ask the Bar Association to appoint one or more lawyers as mediators in order to lead the mediation procedure between the offender and the victim, to bring the parties together and reach a solution.

(5) The mediator shall finalize the mediation procedure

in thirty days at the latest as of the day the application is made. The public prosecutor may extend this period with thirty more days for only once. During the course of the mediation process, the statute of limitation shall be suspended.

(6) Mediation negotiations shall be held in secret. The information, documents and declarations made during this process cannot be revealed later on unless permitted by the parties. If the process fails, and a court case is launched later, the confessions by the offender about an incident or an offence expressed during the mediation process cannot be used as evidence against him.

(7) The mediator shall submit a report to the public prosecutor within ten days, setting out the steps he has taken and the interventions he has effected in order to achieve a settlement.

(8) The decision not to prosecute shall be given when reparation is made for the damage according to the mediation agreement and the costs of the mediation process have been paid by the offender.

**1G.** (SBU) In 2004, 407 police, 123 Jandarma personnel, and 164 judges received training from a combination of GOT, IOM, HRDF, and United Nations High Commission of Refugees training partnerships. The MOI Security Directorate General continued to fulfill conditions of the September 2003 protocol signed with HRDF, the GOT participated in workshops for law enforcement and judicial officials in Istanbul (February 25-27), in Ankara (March 29-April 1), in Izmir (June 16-18), and in Bursa (October 11-13). A portion of the 600,000 USD ESF grant for 2005 will fund similar training scheduled throughout the next reporting period. Three-day HRDF/IOM/GOT workshops generally include the following sixty-minute sessions for Turkish law enforcement officers, judges, and prosecutors:

- The International Legal Definitions of TIP Crimes
- TIP Process: Actors, Mechanisms, and Consequences
- TIP Process: The Violation of Human Rights
- General Command of the Jandarma Presentation
- IOM Activities in the Field of Counter Trafficking
- Case Studies I
- Identification of Trafficked Victims I
- Treatment of Trafficked Victims, Best Practices
- National Legislation of Turkey
- Turkey's Situation in Migrant Smuggling
- Treatment of Trafficked Victims, Best Practices
- Case Studies II
- Treatment of Victims as Witnesses
- Investigation Methods and Techniques I
- Investigation Methods and Techniques II
- Intelligence on Trafficking
- Case Studies III
- Seminar Evaluation
- Movie: Lilya Forever

The MOI initiated an on-the-job training program and seminars for 332 Foreigners Department personnel in provincial security directorates.

According to Aydogan Asar, TNP Foreigners and Human Movements Department Head, classes include the following curriculum

- crimes
- The definition of TIP and how it differs from other crimes
  - The Victim: How to spot
  - The Victim: How to treat
  - How to differentiate
  - National legislation
  - International commitments
  - Importance of cooperation with NGOs
  - Case studies
  - Techniques for interviews

According to Turkish Jandarma Colonel Ferhat Konya, the Jandarma has developed and implemented a mobile training unit model that involves TDY assignments for personnel with special TIP training from Jandarma Headquarters to TIP-targeted districts. TDY officers pass on their training (detailed above) to officers stationed locally. Konya also noted that Jandarma officers receive additional four-day training that includes topics on:

- How to treat victims as witnesses
  - How to cooperate with NGOs and other agencies
  - Investigation techniques from experts from Europol, Scotland Yard
  - Victims' sensitivities UNHCR/IOM
  - Human trafficking victims among refugees
- In April 2005, IOM will train this years' graduating class of Jandarma academy students (1500 students).

**1H.** (SBU) See para I, Overview Section. Partner governments

and source country NGOs reported that the implementation of general bilateral law enforcement agreements remains inconsistent, though media reports documented several successful anti-trafficking police operations with some source countries. Despite the general bilateral law enforcement agreements, the GOT maintains and Post agrees that source countries should adopt the specific anti-TIP protocol proposed by the GOT (see para I, Overview Section). In addition to Ukraine, Turkey submitted on multiple occasions versions of the following draft protocol to Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Uzbekistan. Only Belarus adopted the protocol.

BEGIN TEXT OF DRAFT PROTOCOL:

DRAFT

Protocol Between the Governments of the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine on the Implementation of the First Article of The Cooperation Agreement Against Crime

Pursuant to Article 1 of the "Cooperation Agreement Against Crime between the Governments of the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine", the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of Ukraine hereinafter referred as "Parties";

Deeply concerned by the fact that trafficking in human beings, which constitutes one of the transnational organized crimes and is spread out every other day in the world and in our region, provides huge profits to organized crime networks and is also related to narcotics and arms trafficking, as well as smuggling of migrants;

Realizing that trafficking in human beings can be coped with, through timely and effective international cooperation;

Emphasizing the importance of providing judicial, humanitarian, psychological and medical assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, facilitating their return to their countries and assuring their reintegration and taking the necessary measures in arresting the perpetrators and creating public awareness;

Recognizing the importance of the efforts in stopping the trafficking in human beings by bringing to light the crime networks;

Stressing the need to strengthen the cooperation and coordination between the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine in combating trafficking in human beings;

Have agreed to promote measures in accordance with their respective national legislation and procedures, with a view to:

1. Completing the necessary national legal infrastructure in the field of trafficking in human beings and taking the other necessary administrative and institutional measures;
2. Establishing a regional network between the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in the countries which face this problem;
3. Supporting the victims of trafficking in human beings, following the establishment of the conditions by the Parties in the framework of humanitarian, psychological and medical care;
4. Ensuring the victims to testify in the framework of the national legal systems of the Parties, in order to arrest the perpetrators and protect these victims;
5. Creating public awareness and awareness in the relevant institutions on trafficking in human beings;
6. Creating awareness in their respective countries among the persons traveling abroad who might be subject to trafficking in human beings;
7. Designating points of contact in their respective countries where information on victims of trafficking in human beings will be collected and which will coordinate the issue of trafficking in human beings and sharing the collected information with the other Party;
8. Training of law enforcement agents in combating trafficking in human beings, organizing joint training programmes, exchanging experts of each country and increasing cooperation opportunities;
9. Providing cooperation between the scientific and academic institutions, exchanging experts of each country in order to share experience and knowledge;
10. Tasking the competent authorities in the two countries with the implementation of this Protocol.

This Protocol shall enter into force upon notification in



writing by both Parties to each other that they have completed their national procedures.

Each Party may propose amendments to the present Protocol, Amendments shall enter into force upon their acceptance by all parties in accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned paragraph.

Each Party may give notice to withdrawal from the Protocol by written notification to the other Party.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

Done at ....., this.....

Signed for the Government of the Republic of Turkey  
Signed for the Government of Ukraine

I. (SBU) We have no information regarding the extradition of persons charged with trafficking from other countries or whether the government allows the extradition of its own nationals, if any, charged with such offenses.

J. (SBU) We do not have evidence of official involvement in or tolerance of trafficking at higher levels. Contacts state there is some tolerance of foreign prostitution as long as it is kept within certain limits.

K. (SBU) We do not have evidence of GOT involvement in trafficking.

L. (SBU) We do not have evidence that Turkey is a source or destination country for child sex tourism.

M. (U) Turkey adopted the following conventions:

- ILO Convention 182 (Ratified early 2001).
- ILO Convention 29 and 105 on Forced or Compulsory Labor (ILO Convention 29 went into effect on January 27, 1998 and ILO Convention 105 on December 21, 1960).
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (Ratified May 9, 2002).
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking-in-Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Signed December 2000; Ratified January 31, 2003 and implemented February 4, 2003).

N. (SBU) G/TIP requested specific examples of TIP cases in Turkey. Post provides the following GOT, NGO, and press accounts collected after a TNP raid in Istanbul:

NEWS MEDIA: Versions of the following June 15, 2004 article published in Hurriyet Newspaper (page 5) were also published in editions of Aksam, Cumhuriyet, Milliyet, Vakit, Vatan, and Zaman. The Turkish language articles appeared as half-page or full-page spreads, including photos of alleged traffickers:

TITLE: Anca's Notebook Burns Celebrities

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT: A Romanian-Turkish joint police operation against a gang forcing women into prostitution resulted in the detention of two people, Anton Chelaru Gica and Relu Rotaru, important names in international human trafficking. The two sent Romanian women to Turkey with the promise of finding jobs but instead forced them into prostitution.

The arrests came after Romanian police contacted Turkish police with information about the operation. Istanbul police raided Flash Hotel at Tarlabasi district of Istanbul on May 31 and rescued 5 Romanian women ages 17 to 20. In the operation, Anca Carpusco, the Istanbul leg of the network was also captured. Testimonies by the women also led police to bus driver Fevzi Yesil and driver Cemal Izgi. Police believe Martinas Andrea Romona and Anca Carpusco controlled the financial portion of the network. Romona and Carpusco reportedly transferred USD 200,000 from their bank account in Istanbul to Anton Chelaru Gica and Relu Rotaru in Romania.

Acting upon the testimonies of the girls, including 17-year-old Daniele Ostaci, who is 7 months pregnant, and a notebook kept by Anca Carpusco, 11 people were detained on charges of "having intercourse with minors." Turkish Rock Star 'Akin' was among the detainees. They were then released after being interrogated by a prosecutor in Beyoglu, Istanbul.

Follow-up: Carpusco kept 9 notebooks filled with information about the organization's customers. She kept very detailed logbooks that included customers' license plate numbers, home

and cellular phone numbers, references, and particular sexual preferences. The names of the customers who gave fake money and used force were marked with red ink. Names of thousands of people including famous soccer players, actors and famous businessmen were in the books. Also there was information about policemen. Plate numbers of police teams patrolling the district were also noted.

Pop Star 'Akin', who was detained briefly, said, "They showed me pictures of some women. I told them that I do not know any of them. Maybe we happened to be at the same venues, but I was not with any of them. In a notebook of one of the women my name was written. Maybe it was because I am famous. The most interesting thing was, when we were taken for a health check-up, everyone covered their faces. As a reflex, I also covered my face. There were lots of journalists. After interrogation, I was released." END TEXT.

In a follow-on story published June 17, 2004, Turkey's Hurriyet News carried victim Daniele Ostaci's statement. HRDF Executive Director Demet Gural confirmed the statement is accurate based on her personal interview.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT: "Last year in August my father died. My mother was an alcoholic. In a short time she started living with another man. I was in 9th grade then. She kicked me out of the house, so I started staying with a friend. We went to a disco, where I met a man named Relu. He told me that he would find a job for me in Istanbul as a baby sitter or house cleaner. He told me that I would earn good money. I stayed at his home that night, and then went to Piatra Neamt. He introduced me to Anton Chelaru Gica, who we knew as Alex. He gave me \$100 in advance and placed \$300 in my bank account but told me not to spend it. On October 2, 2003 a man working for Gica took me to a Turk named Fevzi Yesil. I came to Istanbul together with other girls on a bus owned by Yesil. A taxi driver named Cemal Izgi met us and took us to a hotel in Taksim. Anca Carpusco, who runs the finances for the network, met us there.

Anca destroyed my passport, identity card and personal documents. She told me that I would work for them. She took all my money as well. Then they issued fake passports and IDs for us. She made me memorize a telephone number. In the event of any problems she told me to call this number. She also said that they would kill me if I said anything to the police if I was captured.

Cemal Izgi delivered us to the customers. Upon Anca's instruction, we took notes about the customers, demands and preferences. In 8 months, I had intercourse with about 200 people." END TEXT.

HRDF: On June 16, 2004, HRDF Executive Director Demet Gural provided the following information about the case: "We contacted and interviewed these women at the police guest house in Istanbul last Friday (June 11) and Sunday (June 13) with our psychotherapist. We were informed about them by the Istanbul Foreigners Department on June 9. The victims were given medical exams at Haseki hospital. The minor mentioned in Hurriyet was diagnosed as 7 weeks pregnant. After our initial interview, we decided to meet again in a private setting to talk with them through an interpreter. The stories are desperate as you can imagine. We prepared a report about their situation and shared it with IOM. This afternoon, through IOM support they are going back to Romania as voluntary returnees."

IOM: On June 18, 2004, IOM Acting Chief of Mission Meltem Ersoy confirmed the repatriations: "Dear Mr. McFarland, Six victims of trafficking were assisted to return home voluntarily by IOM Turkey. They were met and assisted by IOM Bucharest upon arrival. They will be included in IOM reintegration programs. Due to their ages and the type of exploitation, they will also receive physical and psychological assistance from IOM."

GOT: In a letter dated June 28, 2004, Mehmet Terzioğlu, TNP Department Head for Foreigners, Borders, and Asylum, provided the following case specifics:

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TERZIOĞLU LETTER:

DG Turkish National Police  
Department for Foreigners, Borders, and Asylum  
Ilkadam Caddesi  
A.Ayrançi

Department Head, Mehmet Terzioğlu  
Tel: 412 3219, Fax: 466-9011  
illegalmig@egm.gov.tr

June 28, 2004

Dear Mr. McFarland:

The following is information you requested about the



operation conducted against traffickers in Istanbul in cooperation with the Romanian police and about the Romanian citizen victims rescued in the operation:

During preliminary meetings held in Bucharest May 14-18, 2004, through SECI, our delegation learned from our Romanian counterparts information to the effect that Romanian origin women were being forced into prostitution in an Istanbul hotel named Flash. Within the framework of Operation Mirage 2004 conducted in cooperation with the Romanian police, we found seven Romanian national women kept by force in the above mentioned hotel. From the interviews, we understood that they were victims of trafficking. They were put under protection and psychological support was provided.

The victims said that they were deceived by Romanian nationals known as Gigi and Relu with the promise that they would find jobs in Turkey. Upon this information, we contacted our Romanian police counterparts, who apprehended traffickers named Anton Chelaru Gica and Gheorghe Relu Rotari. Photographs of the suspects we requested were emailed to us by our counterparts. The victims identified the suspects from the photographs.

Financial documents we recovered from the hotel and people connected to the traffickers revealed that the network transferred 182,450 USD to people in Romania.

The judicial process was initiated against Turkish citizens named Fevzi Yesil and Cemal Izgi as well as Romanian citizen Anca Carpusca. For their connections to the network, they were put in prison after being arrested.

Following the operation, we provided for the needs of the Romanian victims in Istanbul. They were told they can stay in our country and that each may be given a residence permit, but as they declared that they would like to go back to their country, contact was established with IOM Ankara for their safe return. With arrangements made by this office, they were sent to Romania via airlines on June 16, 2004.

The investigation concerning the people who are behind the scenes and might be connected with the incident still continues. END TEXT.  
EDELMAN